



DRAFT

April 12, 2016

To Chief Dyer,

On Behalf of the City of Fresno Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) I am writing to you to support and recommend that the Fresno Police Department partner with National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) Fresno for officer training.

During the March 8, 2016 DAC meeting a presentation was given by Chris Roup, Executive Director of NAMI-Fresno. During this presentation she discussed the mission of their agency which includes free education and training for Law Enforcement. She informed the DAC that NAMI-Fresno has provided education/training for the California Highway Patrol including the centralized section of the Fresno CHP. This training focuses on resolving high stress situations in which mental illness is at the heart of the need for a law enforcement presence. Chris mentioned that she has been in direct contact with you regarding the provision of specific training for law enforcement officers.

As a committee we are aware that incidents involving persons who live with various mental health issues can be an emotional and stressful time for law enforcement officers as well as the involved person, family members, and society in general. We feel that any training which can help to mitigate these situations and the aftermath would be useful for all persons concerned.

It is the recommendation of the DAC that resources are sought by your department to provide for the training program from NAMI-Fresno. We at the DAC recognize that the training from NAMI-Fresno is free but that personnel costs involved in sending office to such training would entail fiscal considerations and will require planning and management to facilitate.

It is hoped that any training will be considered in relation to increasing the safety of both law enforcement personnel and also the citizens whom they protect.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further with any member of the commission, please feel free to contact Shannon M. Mulhall, DAC Secretary and Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, at 559-621-8716 or Shannon.Mulhall@fresno.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jenelle Pitt
DAC Chair

CC: City Manager